

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn) A method for preserving the ratio of the tensile strength in the length direction to the tensile strength in the breadth direction of a mat of filaments which is in displacement, passing from one conveyor to another, characterized in that the mat is subjected to a vacuum applying it to a support during the passage from the first conveyor to a movable element.

2. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the mat is slowed while it passes from the first conveyor to the movable element.

3. (withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the first conveyor is that onto which the filaments for forming the mat are deposited.

4. (currently amended) An installation for producing a nonwoven fabric, comprising a spun-bonding tower depositing a mat of filaments onto a first conveyor, the

mat being delivered on a first movable conveying element to means for consolidation by entanglement, and means intended for causing the mat of filaments to pass onto the first movable conveying element, characterized in that the means intended for causing the mat of filaments to pass onto the first movable conveying element comprise a second movable conveying element having a device for the application of a vacuum which maintains the mat on the an outer surface of the second movable conveying element.

5. (previously presented) The installation as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the second movable element is a drum or a conveyor.

6. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the first conveyor is more air-permeable than the first movable conveying element.

7. (original) The installation as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the first conveyor has an air permeability of between 500 and 1100 CFM (14.1 and 31 m³/min).

8. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the first movable conveying element has an air permeability of between 50 and 500 CFM (1.41 and 14.1 m³/min).

9. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the first conveyor is a multilayer cloth, while the first movable conveying element is a single layer cloth.

10. (previously presented) The installation as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the first conveyor delivers the mat directly to the means intended for causing the mat of filaments to pass.

11. (currently amended) The installation as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the first movable conveying element has a suction device which cooperates with the means for causing the mat to pass, in order to facilitate the passage of the mat from the means to the first movable conveying element.

12. (currently amended) The ~~use of a machine~~ installation as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that

said installation is constructed and arranged to preserve
~~for preserving~~ the ratio of the tensile strength in the
length direction to the tensile strength in the breadth
direction of a said mat of filaments which is in
displacement, coming from a said spun-bonding tower and
going to a ~~device for consolidation by means of water jets~~
said means for consolidation by entanglement.

13. (new) The installation as claimed in claim 4,
characterized in that said conveyor operates at a conveyor
linear speed to convey said matt of filaments and said
second movable conveying element operates at a conveying
element linear speed to cause said matt of filaments to
pass onto said first movable conveying element, and said
second conveying element linear speed is less than said
conveyor linear speed.